



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR ENERGY AND TRANSPORT

DIRECTORATE E - Inland Transport

Road safety

Acting Head of Unit

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Mr Jordan Philipov
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Dear Mr. Philipov,

Vice-President Barrot has asked me to thank you and to reply to your letter of 1st February about pedestrian safety in Bulgaria.

First of all, I would like to congratulate you for your interest in road safety. As you rightly wrote, improving road safety is indeed a high priority for Mr. Barrot. The European commission has proposed -as a common target- to reduce by 50% the number of victims on roads between 2001 and 2010.

Another important feature is that road safety is a "shared responsibility". This means that Administrations cannot rely exclusively on users and other stakeholders to improve the situation. Nor can the users rely exclusively on Administrations. Under a different perspective, the European level cannot intervene where the national or local level should act. You will surely agree that this is the case for road traffic rules: many things must be decided by the Member States or local authorities.

That being said, even when European legislation is inappropriate, the European Commission can foster the sharing of experience. The most recent example is the "SUPREME" project which has identified and analysed several hundreds of practices and then promoted some of them as "best practices". The whole series of documents is published on our web site ¹ and the volume C "handbook for measures at the country level" will soon be available in Bulgarian.

I would also like to mention the next European Road Safety Day (Paris, 13 October 2008), dedicated to "road safety in our cities". Beyond this event, the Commission expects that the Member States will -at the same moment- give an echo to the same problem e.g. by organising events at national level.

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/transport/roadsafety/publications/projectfiles/supreme_en.htm

By mid March at the latest, our web site² will mention the Commission's request to Member States. It will then be the responsibility of citizens and associations to echo this demand and urge their Governments to take initiatives.

I hope that the information above will be helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Enrico Grillo Pasquarelli

² http://ec.europa.eu/transport/roadsafety/road_safety_days/index_2008_en.htm